Alice Griffiths is 100 this month!



Born on 18 July 1918, the same day as Nelson Mandela, Alice lived all her life in Crooke Lane until moving briefly to Laurel Bank and then to Lindisfarne in Haworth three years ago.

Alice worked for many years as a burler and mender at Birkshead Mill, except for a period during the war when she went to an engineering firm in Keighley as one of

Birkshead's quota of 20 young women to be released for war work. Alice has been a lifelong member of St. Matthew's. She began attending the church as a child in Sunday School and has been an active member of the congregation at all four of St M's buildings. She was a Sunday School teacher, a member of the church drama group and in 1955, when no men could be found to stand, Alice and Mrs Margaret Helmsley became St. M's first lady churchwardens. They saw the church through a difficult period when no incumbent was appointed and the parish came under the care of the Vicar of Harden. The old church building was then closed and the Sunday School was converted for services.

Alice was a member of the Mothers' Union and served on the PCC and Outreach (now Mission Support) committee for many years. She was on the reading and intercessions rotas until her eyesight began to fail. Alice was our Children's Society representative for 30 years.

In 1997 she received the Royal Maundy Money from HM the Queen in Bradford Cathedral.

Alice keeps fairly well but has some hearing and vision difficulties so will celebrate the special birthday quietly. Lindisfarne will organise a small gathering on the day for family and a few close friends. They will also arrange two small celebrations between 10.30-11.30am and between 2.30-3.30pm on Friday 20th July to which her friends at St. Matthew's are cordially invited. If you would like to visit please have a word with Sandra or Sue.

There is a card to sign at the back of St. Matthew's.

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